(c) whether the existing customers of the VSNL network would be able to utilise its services of VSNL in the NLD telephone system; and

(d) what would be the investment in this new upcoming project by VSNL ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) Yes, Sir. By middle of 2002.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Existing customers of BSNL network will be able to utilise the services of VSNL in the NLD telephone system depending upon the final decision about selection of NLD operator by customers.

(d) About Rs. 1800 crores.

Call traffic through PSTN switches

2598. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether, as reported in Statesman of June 23, 2000, Government have been contemplating a move to allow call traffic through PSTN switches on capacity, leased out to private parties, whereby consumers could be benefited from considerably cheaper tariffs; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal and what decision has been taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : (a) and (b) The news-item referred here appeared in the Statesman dated June 23, 2001. As per the recommendations of TRAI in respect of opening of International Long Distance Service to private sector, which has been accepted by the Government, re-sellers are not permitted.

Implementation of CPP

2599. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hon'ble High Court have struck down the impugned regulations and implementation of Calling Party Pay (CPP) in the form prevalent at the time of hearing;